

**SHB 1329 - S AMD 359**

By Senators Hatfield, Holmquist and Hobbs

LAID ON TABLE 4/13/2009

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that, as of 2009, the  
4 challenges posed by low wages and lack of training that the  
5 legislature identified in enacting the child care career and wage  
6 ladder persist, and the availability of quality child care in the  
7 state continues to suffer. Recognizing that family child care  
8 providers have been granted the ability to collectively bargain with  
9 the state to improve standards in their profession and to expand  
10 opportunities for educational advancement to ensure continuous quality  
11 improvement in the delivery of early learning services, it has been  
12 suggested that the legislature grant similar bargaining rights to  
13 child care center directors and workers. However, because of current  
14 economic realities, it is difficult to award such rights before  
15 thoroughly studying whether this will, in fact, improve the working  
16 conditions of child care center directors and workers.

17 The legislature intends, therefore, to study the effects of the  
18 family child care provider system and whether providing equivalent  
19 collective bargaining opportunities to child care center directors and  
20 workers will lead to better training and opportunities for child care  
21 workers and better early learning opportunities for the children in  
22 their care. The legislature further intends that the results of this  
23 study be delivered to a joint legislative task force which will  
24 investigate methods to raise the subsidy through legislation.

25  
26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of early learning must  
27 study issues relating to increasing the child care subsidy and

1 reimbursement rates for child care centers licensed under chapter  
2 43.125 RCW. The study must:

3 (a) Include a review of the results of the collective bargaining  
4 provided to family child care providers. This must include whether  
5 this has resulted in increased economic compensation, health and  
6 welfare benefits, professional development and training, and other  
7 economic matters to these providers;

8 (b) Be made in consultation with child care center directors and  
9 workers as well as other interested stakeholders. Directors and  
10 workers must be consulted in several areas of the state, including  
11 centers located in eastern Washington and western Washington;

12 (c) Review alternative methods of raising the child care subsidy  
13 rate;

14 (d) Review alternative methods to provide training to child care  
15 center directors and workers;

16 (e) Review methods to retain child care center workers and  
17 otherwise reduce employee turnover; and

18 (f) Include other items the department determines necessary to  
19 study in order to increase educational opportunities for children in  
20 child care centers.

21 (2) The study required under this subsection must be completed by  
22 August 1, 2010, and delivered to the joint legislative task force on  
23 child care center subsidy and reimbursement rates established in  
24 section 3 of this act.

25 (3) This section expires December 31, 2010.

26  
27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The joint legislative task force on child  
28 care center subsidy and reimbursement rates is established. The task  
29 force shall consist of the following members:

30 (a) The chair and the ranking minority member of the senate labor,  
31 commerce and consumer protection committee;

32 (b) The chair and the ranking minority member of the house of  
33 representatives commerce and labor committee;

34

1 (c) Up to eight members appointed jointly by the president of the  
2 senate and the speaker of the house of representatives that represent  
3 child care centers. These members must include representatives of  
4 businesses that own and operate ten or more child care centers;  
5 representatives of local nonprofit organizations whose primary mission  
6 is to provide social services, such as the YMCA and the YWCA; and  
7 representatives of child care centers such as the Washington  
8 federation of independent schools, child care consulting, the  
9 Washington education association, the American federation of teachers;  
10 and the service employees international union; and

11 (d) The director of the department of early learning, or the  
12 director's designee.

13 (2) The task force must review the results of the study conducted  
14 under section 2 of this act and must develop proposed legislation that  
15 is intended to increase the child care subsidy and reimbursement  
16 rates. In developing proposed legislation, the task force must  
17 consider previous legislative attempts to raise the subsidy rate  
18 including SB 5506, which was proposed during the 2009 legislative  
19 session.

20 (3) The task force must submit its proposed legislation to the  
21 senate labor commerce and consumer protection committee, the senate  
22 early learning and K-12 education committee, the house of  
23 representatives commerce and labor committee, and the house of  
24 representatives early learning and children's services committee by  
25 December 1, 2011.

26 (4) This section expires December 31, 2011."

27

28 **SHB 1329** - S AMD **359**

29 By Senators Hatfield, Holmquist and Hobbs

30

31 On page, beginning on line 3 of the title, after "workers;" strike  
32 the remainder of the title and insert "creating new sections; and  
33 providing expiration dates."

34

EFFECT: The Department of Early Learning is required to study methods to raise the child care subsidy and reimbursement rates. A Joint Legislative Task Force on Child Care Subsidy and Reimbursement Rates is established to develop legislation based on the Department of Early Learning study. The proposed legislation must address ways to increase the child care subsidy and reimbursement rates and include consideration of past legislative efforts. The proposed legislation must be delivered to the Legislature by December 1, 2011.

--- END ---